

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of constructing a multi-compartment side pack for mounting to a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

5 cutting an integral multi-panel face from a sheet of metal, said multi-panel face including a side panel for said side pack, a front panel for said side pack and a back panel for said side pack, said cutting step including cutting a plurality of door openings in said side panel;

forming a right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said front panel and said side panel, and forming a right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said side panel and said back panel, said forming step forming said multi-panel face into a U-shaped unit;

10 fabricating a plurality of divider panels, and attaching said divider panels to said side panel to provide compartments; and

attaching a top panel, a back panel and a bottom panel to the compartments; and providing doors to cover the openings in said side panel.

2. The method of claim 1, further including forming an inwardly bent flange on at least a portion of a peripheral edge of said multi-panel face, and fastening the top panel, back panel and bottom panel to said flange, said inwardly bent flange formed by bending material of said multi-panel face.

3. The method of claim 1, further including fabricating said divider panels to each include a respective divider panel formed orthogonal to a door jamb frame, and forming a peripheral flange around said door jamb frame, and fastening the peripheral flange of the door jamb around a respective opening of said side panel.

4. The method of claim 3, further including forming the peripheral flange and door jamb frame of each said divider panel so that the respective door jamb frame is spaced from the back surface of said side panel.

5. The method of claim 1, further including fixing the panels together by welding.
6. The method of claim 5, further including making all welds between said multi-panel face and said divider panels welds in a location that are not visible from outside said side pack.
7. The method of claim 1, further including using a cutout obtained from making one said door opening, to fabricate a door panel for covering a portion of one said door opening.
8. The method of claim 7, further including welding a flanged reinforcing panel to a backside of said cutout, and bending one side edge of said cutout to form an offset edge.
9. The method of claim 8, further including forming a partner door panel, and mounting said door panel and said partner door panel so as to cover said one opening in said side panel, and mounting said door panel and said partner door panel in said door opening so that the offset edge of said door panel overlaps a side edge of said partner door panel.
10. The method of claim 1, further including forming a first side pack for mounting to a curb side of the vehicle, and forming a second side pack for mounting to a street side of said vehicle.
11. The method of claim 10, further including welding the first and second side packs to a bed of said vehicle, and welding said first and second side packs to a front bulkhead of said vehicle.
12. A side pack fabricated according to the steps of claim 1.

13. A method of constructing a multi-compartment side pack for mounting to a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

cutting an integral multi-panel face from a sheet of metal, said multi-panel face including a side panel for said side pack, a front panel for said side pack and a back panel for said side pack, said cutting step including cutting a plurality of door openings in said side panel;

5 forming a right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said front panel and said side panel, and forming a right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said side panel and said back panel, said forming step forming said multi-panel face into a U-shaped unit;

10 fabricating a flange around portions of a peripheral edge of the multi-panel face, said flange being bent inwardly to form a right angle with said multi-panel face;

fabricating a plurality of L-shaped panels, each L-shaped panel fabricated by forming a recessed doorjamb, and forming at a right angle thereto a compartment divider, and attaching the recessed doorjambs to said side panel to provide respective compartments; and

15 attaching a top panel, a back panel and a bottom panel to the multi-panel face; and providing doors to cover the openings in said side panel.

14. The method of claim 13, further including welding the L-shaped panels to the back surface of said side panel so that no welds are visible as viewed from the side of the side panel.

15. A side pack fabricated according to the steps of claim 13.

16. A method of constructing a multi-compartment side pack for mounting to a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

5 cutting an integral multi-panel face from a sheet of metal, said multi-panel face including a side panel for said side pack, a front panel for said side pack and a back panel for said side pack, said cutting step including cutting a plurality of door openings in said side panel;

forming a vertical right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said front panel and said side panel, and forming a vertical right angle bend in said multi-panel face between said side panel and said back panel, said forming step forming said multi-panel face into a U-shaped unit;

10 fabricating a first L-shaped panel having a front compartment divider formed at a right angle with respect to a first doorjamb, said front compartment divider forming a side of a front compartment with the front panel of said multi-panel face;

fabricating a second L-shaped panel having a mid compartment divider formed at a right angle with respect to a second doorjamb, said mid compartment divider forming a side of a mid compartment with said front compartment divider;

15 fabricating a third L-shaped panel having a bottom panel formed at a right angle with respect to a third doorjamb, said bottom panel forming a bottom for a horizontal compartment;

fabricating a fourth L-shaped panel having a rear compartment divider formed at a right angle with respect to a fourth doorjamb, said rear compartment divider forming a side of a rear compartment with the back panel of said multi-panel face;

20 fabricating a top panel having a top part formed orthogonal to a back part, said top part for fastening to said multi-panel face, said back part forming at least a portion of a back side of said front, mid, horizontal and rear compartments of said side pack;

25 an angled bottom panel having a bottom part forming a bottom of said front and mid compartments, and a vertical part forming at least a portion of a back side of said front and mid compartments;

fabricating a bottom panel, said bottom panel forming a bottom for said rear compartment; and

providing doors to cover the openings in said side panel of said multi-panel face, said doors abutting against respective said doorjambs.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each said doorjamb provides a peripheral abutment all around each respective said door opening.

18. The method of claim 16, further including forming a wheel well under said horizontal compartment.